Oral History Project: Legacy of Local Leaders Project

Let’s talk about some of our prominent leaders! Charleston has become a progressive city within the last 5 years. People from all over the country are attracted to the area and are beginning to call this city home. What can locals do to make sure that our past leaders continue to hold a legacy within Charleston history?

This where we come in. Your job is to conduct research on a local Charlestonian that has impacted the culture of Charleston. Use this oral history project as an opportunity to convince others why the Charlestonian you selected is worth studying. Below, I provided a list of Charlestonians that you can chose from. Feel free to discover your own local leader to research, but just make sure to get my permission first.

List of Charlestonian Leaders

1. Darius Rucker- former lead sing of Grammy-award winning band Hootie & the Blowfish.
2. Philip Simmons- iron gate worker
3. Septima Poinsett Clark- Civil Rights Activist
4. Denmark Vesey- freedman accused of leading slave revolt
5. Luther Broughton- NFL player for the Carolina Panthers & the Philadelphia Eagles
6. Garrett Chisolm- NFL player for Carolina Panthers and other noteworthy teams of the NFL
7. AJ Green- NFL player for the Cincinnati Bengals
8. Katrina McClain Johnson-Olympic Gold Medalist and retired WNBA player

Assignment Instructions

Your project will be compromised of two parts. You will first complete a 3 page research paper. Your research paper is not just a means of “busy work,” but it will help you produce a better interview for this project. The more information you have about your subject the better you can formulate questions to ask. Ultimately, this will lead to a better interview. You can chose the topic of your paper as long as it is centered on your local Charlestonian. For example, if you chose Katrina McClain Johnson to focus your oral history project on, you could center your research paper on how her Charleston culture impacted her success within the world of sports.

The second part of your oral history project will be the actual interview. The interview has to be between 5-8 minutes. If your subject is deceased, you can chose to interview a relative of your subject or any close associates that are still living whom can provide you with any information relating to the subject. If you are unable to locate a distant relative of the subject, I encourage you to further explore their hometown or places they visited or have affiliations with. Remember, oral history is the exploration of facts pertaining to a specific person. If I can be of any further assistance in that process, please feel free to contact me and let me know before the project is due.

Spring Tenative Due Dates

Your oral history project will have a specific due date, but we will have deadlines that will lead to the final production of the project.

* ***January 23****-* Selection of your local leader. If you are not using anyone that I included on the list, I need to approve of your selection at least one week prior to this due date **(January 16th)**. This allows enough time if I ask you to change your selected local leader.
* ***Feburary 13****-* Annotated bibliography including 5 sources adhering to MLA format
* ***March 6****-* Rough draft of research paper
* ***March 27****-* Final draft of research paper
* ***April 17*-** Rough Draft of intended questions for interview
* ***May 8-*** Final Copy of intended questions for interview with corrections
* ***May 31-*** **ORAL HISTORY PROJECT DUE**